



# **Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

## ***Decision Notice For Proposed***

### **Region Four Weed Management Plan and Environmental Assessment**

**Region Four  
6400 Giant Springs Road  
Great Falls, MT. 59406**

**March 12, 1997.**

#### **Description of Proposed Action:**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) in north-central Montana (Region 4) is concerned about the rapid spread of noxious weeds and resulting impacts to biological communities, soil and water resources, and agricultural production. The Department proposes to implement ecologically based weed management programs and comply with Montana's Noxious Weed Control Act.

This plan summarizes the noxious weed situation, weed management concerns, and identifies weed management methods for about 105,867 acres including state parks, wildlife management acres, and fishing access sites in north-central Montana. An Integrated Weed Management (IWM) approach which considers site conditions, and prescribes education, prevention, and mechanical/manual, biological, and chemical weed management practices will be implemented to manage noxious weeds.

Integrated Weed Management is a systems approach to management of undesirable plants. IWM is defined in the Federal Noxious Weed Act as "a system for the planning and implementation of a program, using an interdisciplinary approach, to select a method for containing or controlling an undesirable plant species or group of species using all available methods".

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The goals of this draft weed management plan are to:

1. Comply with existing noxious weed control laws.
2. Maintain healthy, weed resistant plant communities that meet management objectives for each site type.
3. Reduce the impact of weeds on biological communities and soil and water resources.
4. Manage noxious weed infestations without significant adverse environmental effects.
5. Reduce impacts on other lands from weed infestations on FWP lands.

**Finding of No Significant Impact:**

Based on the analysis in the EA, I find the Weed Management Plan outlined as proposed to be the preferred alternative. This alternative allows maximum effectiveness in managing weeds on Region Four properties while protecting the wildlife, plants and recreational opportunities on Department lands. This management plan meets FWP's legal obligations to manage weeds on its properties as stated in the Montana Noxious Weed Control Act, the Montana Streambank and Weed Control Act, County Noxious Weed Control laws and policies and FWP Weed Management policy.

Minor changes in wording to better clarify the project were made based on comments received from in-house agency review and public comments garnered during the thirty day period ending January 15, 1997. With these changes the management plan and EA will be accepted as final.

I have reviewed the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final Weed Management Plan and Environmental Assessment may be viewed at or obtained from The Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, Region 4, Great Falls, MT. Please direct requests and questions to:

Mike Aderhold, P.O. Box 6610, Great Falls, MT 59406. (406) 454-5840.

Signed Mike Aderhold Date March 12, 1997  
Mike Aderhold - Region Four Supervisor